



# CITY COUNCIL

## Administrative Oversight and Land Use Committee

**Monday, February 7, 2011  
Meeting Report**

**Attendance:** S. Marmarou, D. Reed

**Others Attending:** S. Katzenmoyer

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 pm by Mr. Marmarou.

### **I. Interviews**

#### **Dan Minotto (appointment – Planning Commission)**

Mr. Minotto was not present. *Note: Mr. Minotto called the office on February 8 to report that he appeared at his allotted time but that the Committee was still in another meeting. He waited for some time but could not remain as he had other evening commitments.*

Mr. Minotto will be rescheduled to a future meeting.

#### **John Hefferon (reappointment – Disruptive Conduct Review Board)**

Mr. Marmarou stated that he has heard good things about this Board.

Ms. Reed questioned how the Board is working. Mr. Hefferon noted the need for better communication with the Police Department. He stated that the Police did not know for over a year that the number of allowable DCRs was decreased from three to two. He stated that the Board recently had its first split decision.

Mr. Hefferon stated that New York was successful as they pursued small crimes and discovered that those committing small crimes also commit large ones.

Mr. Marmarou and Ms. Reed noted their pleasure that Mr. Hefferon was willing to continue serving.

Mr. Hefferon noted that the City needs to examine how it does business with responsible landlords. He stated that enforcement is good but that there are many regulations which are no longer applicable or that conflict with one another. He noted the need for people who grew up and live in Reading to be employed by the City. He noted the need to simplify the Blighted Property procedure to decrease blight.

Ms. Reed stated that the Blighted Property Review Committee is moving as quickly as possible.

Mr. Hefferon suggested that the City consolidate their many fees, including items such as business privilege license and rental registration, as there are many items and that causes a waste of paper.

**The Administrative Oversight Committee agreed to recommend the reappointment of Mr. Hefferon to the Disruptive Conduct Review Board.**

#### **Michael Leifer (appointment – Main Street Board)**

Ms. Reed questioned Mr. Leifer's concerns with this Board. Mr. Leifer questioned if there would be financial support for the Board or if it would be another Board spinning its wheels. He stated that he currently serves on the Fire Civil Service Board but that if he must choose one, it would be Main Street.

Mr. Marmarou questioned if Mr. Leifer could be appointed to Main Street if he continues as a member of the Fire Civil Service Board. Ms. Katzenmoyer explained Mr. Younger's opinion to follow the same procedure used for Yvonne Strohman when she was appointed to the Police Diversity Board while serving on the Police Civil Services Board.

Ms. Reed stated that Mr. Leifer's involvement is critical on Main Street. Mr. Leifer stated that he feels his best fit would be on Main Street. He noted the need for this Board to move forward and noted the success of the West Reading Main Street program.

Mr. Marmarou stated that West Reading has slowed down. Mr. Leifer noted his observation that there is merchant turnover and that West Reading has parking issues but that there are unified merchants. He noted his work to create a merchant's association and restaurant association in Reading.

Ms. Reed stated that the Main Street Board would have no budget but that it would prepare for State funds when they become available. She noted that the City almost spent \$65,000 on the median project when it is not needed.

Mr. Leifer stated that this Board needs to be apolitical. He noted that people are very interested in helping but must be able to see progress. He noted that the downtown business owners have a

vested interest in the downtown. He noted that lighting and security are good but that people need a reason to come downtown. He noted the hard work of those organizing First Friday events.

**The Administrative Oversight Committee agreed to recommend the appointment of Mr. Leifer to the Main Street Board.**

**Matthew Griffith (appointment – Stadium Commission)**

Mr. Marmarou informed Mr. Griffith that there were currently no openings on the Stadium Commission.

Ms. Reed suggested that Mr. Griffith serve as an alternate on the Zoning Hearing Board. She explained that he would attend hearings and fill the quorum as necessary. She noted that he has background in this field. Mr. Griffith was agreeable to serving in this capacity.

Mr. Marmarou noted his pleasure that young people are getting involved in their community.

Ms. Reed explained that the Zoning Hearing Board is quasi-judicial.

Mr. Marmarou stated that the Stadium Commission's current status is more like goodwill ambassadors.

Ms. Reed explained the appointment procedure.

**The Administrative Oversight Committee agreed to recommend the appointment of Mr. Griffith as an alternate to the Zoning Hearing Board.**

**Eron Lloyd (appointment – Water Authority)**

Ms. Reed questioned why Mr. Lloyd was interested in serving on the Water Authority. Mr. Lloyd stated that water will be a major focus in the future. He stated that this is one of the largest City assets and that he can bring a sustainability perspective to the Authority. He stated that he is ready to become more involved in the community.

Ms. Reed noted her pleasure in youth involvement in the community. She stated that Mr. Lloyd is familiar with the City's issues. Mr. Lloyd stated that the Water Authority will have some interesting work before it in the future.

Ms. Reed explained the appointment procedure and the Water Authority meeting schedule.

Mr. Lloyd noted the need for the Water Authority to have more outreach to the community.

**The Administrative Oversight Committee agreed to recommend the appointment of Mr. Lloyd to the Water Authority.**

### **Barry Unger (appointment – Plumbing Board)**

Mr. Marmarou questioned the location of Vision Mechanical. Mr. Unger stated that it is in West Reading behind Fortna in the former Bob White building.

Ms. Reed questioned why Mr. Unger was interested in serving this board. Mr. Unger stated that he was approached by Plumbing Inspector Jay Montgomery to serve. He stated that he has always wanted to assist and is now able.

Mr. Marmarou questioned if Mr. Unger attended any Plumbing Board meetings. Mr. Unger stated that he has attended one meeting. He stated that there is room for improvement. He stated that he will work to amend the UCC for City standards. This Board also interviews candidates for Journeyman and Master Plumber. He stated that he has been in the trade since 1985 when he was employed by DMI.

Mr. Marmarou noted the need for those serving to have knowledge and background in the field.

Mr. Marmarou explained the appointment process.

**The Administrative Oversight Committee agreed to recommend the appointment of Mr. Unger to the Plumbing Board.**

## **II. Charter Board Appointments**

Ms. Reed stated that the Charter Board has done well at remaining apolitical. She expressed her belief that Ms. Gibson is doing an excellent job as chair of this Board and that she should be reappointed.

Ms. Reed suggested that Ms. Solado be contacted to see if she is interested in serving on the Park and Recreation Advisory Committee as there is a need on this committee and that she will bring some diversity.

**The Administrative Oversight Committee agreement to recommend the reappointment of Ms. Gibson to the Charter Board.**

## **III. Unqualified Applicants**

Ms. Katzenmoyer described how the Mayor's office and Council office receive applications from residents without specific qualifications for BACs. She questioned how the Committee would like these applications processed.

Mr. Marmarou volunteered to contact the current unqualified applicant to suggest other ways that he may be helpful.

The Administrative Oversight Committee adjourned at approximately 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,

*Shelly Katzenmoyer,*  
Deputy City Clerk